

Remarks

The Advisory Action dated September 16, 2004, and the Office Action dated June 24, 2004 and made final have been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application, of which claims 1-20 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error therein.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Parent (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,360) is respectfully traversed.

Parent describes connector locks for locking first and second connectors together, and more specifically for locking a plug (10) and a receptacle (12) together. A mounting bracket (40) is fixed in a stationary manner to the receptacle (12) and a mounting bracket (68) is fixed in a stationary manner to the plug (10), and the brackets (40) and (68) are pivotally displaceable with respect to one another to align mating portions of the plug (10) and receptacle (12). As described by Parent, the receptacle (12) is mounted to a chassis (16) and thus in use the receptacle (12) is mounted stationary while the plug (10) is engaged to the receptacle as shown in Figures 8A-8C.

The mounting bracket (68) which the Office Action equates with the recited bail latch retainer of claim 1, does not satisfy the recitations of claim 1. The mounting bracket (68) is mounted stationary to the plug (10) and is not pivotally mounted to the plug. Rather, the Parent mounting bracket (68) is fixed in a non-movable manner to a plug (10) with a screw.

Claim 1 now recites a connector assembly first connector comprising a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch, said bail latch movable relative to said base between a latched position and an unlatched position, and a cable connector having a mating connector face and a

bail latch retainer configured to receive said pivotally mounted bail latch when said bail latch is moved relative to the mating connector face to said latched position. Parent neither describes nor suggests the connector assembly of claim 1.

While the mounting bracket (68) may be movable with respect to bracket (40) as the plug (10) and the receptacle (12) are engaged, the bracket (68) is not movable with respect to the receptacle (12) between latched and unlatched positions and also movable relative to the plug (10). As noted above, each of the brackets (40) and (68) of Parent is mounted stationary to the respective plug (10) and the receptacle (12). The connector assembly of Parent is respectfully submitted to be incapable of satisfying the recitations of claim 1.

It is further submitted that Parent nowhere suggests a desirability of providing a latch retainer which is movable with respect to each of a first connector and a cable connector, in combination with a jack screw as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Parent. Likewise, the detail recitations of claims 2, 4 and 5, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, are likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Moreover, the features of the bail latch retainer recited in claims 4 and 5 are neither described nor suggested by Parent.

Claim 8 now recites a low profile cable connector assembly comprising “a mating connector comprising a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch” and “a cable connector comprising a mating connector face, first and second lateral sides extending from said mating connector face, and a cable exit extending from one of said first and second sides; wherein said first side of said cable connector comprises a bail latch retainer thereon, said bail latch retainer extending substantially perpendicular to said first side and defining a slot extending substantially parallel to said mating connector face, said slot configured to receive said bail latch when said cable connector is mated to said mating connector and when said bail latch is pivoted about said

base to a latched position; and a jack screw located adjacent said second side of said cable connector."

Parent does not disclose a connector having a pivotally mounted bail latch. While the brackets (40) and (68) are "pivotally displaceable" with respect to one another to align mating portions of the plug (10) and receptacle (12), neither of the brackets are fairly characterized as a pivotally mounted bail latch which is pivoted a base to a latched position as claim 8 recites. The mounting brackets (40) and (68) of Parent each are mounted stationary to the plug and receptacle, respectively, with screws. Thus, while the mounting brackets attached to the plug and receptacle of Parent may be pivoted by a user to connect and lock the plug and receptacle together (See Figures 8A-8C of parent), neither of the brackets are pivotally mounted. As is shown in Figures 8A-8C, the brackets (40), (68) of the Parent device remain in the same position relative to the plug (10) and receptacle (12), respectively, at all times. Thus, neither of the brackets (40) and (68) are pivotally mounted and movable relative each of the respective plug (10) and the receptacle (12).

Additionally, Parent does not describe a bail latch retainer extending substantially perpendicular to said first side and defining a slot extending substantially parallel to said mating connector face, said slot configured for receiving a bail latch which is pivotally mounted to a base of a first connector as recited in claim 8. Rather, the mounting bracket (68) coupled to the plug (10) disclosed by Parent extends neither perpendicular nor parallel to the side of the plug adjacent the mating connector face or to the mating face itself, but rather the mounting bracket (68) extends at a noticeably oblique angle to each of the side of the plug and the mating connector face.

Still further, the mounting bracket (68) of Parent does not define a slot extending substantially parallel to said mating connector face, the slot configured to receive said bail latch when said cable connector is mated to said mating connector and when said bail latch is pivoted about said base to a latched position. Rather, the Parent mounting bracket (68) is mounted to the

plug (10) via a screw extending through a round fastener aperture (84). Despite the assertion to the contrary in the Office Action, the aperture (84) is not fairly characterized as a slot, and the aperture (84) does not receive a pivotally mounted bail latch but rather a screw.

As Parent neither describes nor suggests the cable connector recited in claim 8, nor any desirability of the combination of the recited bail latch retainer and a jack screw, claim 8 is submitted to be patentable over Parent. Likewise, the detail recitations of claim 11, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 8, are submitted to be patentable over Parent.

Additionally, Applicants note that the slot having a neck portion and a head portion as recited in claim 11 is nowhere described or suggested by Parent. Rather, Parent only discloses a circular aperture (84) in the mounting bracket (68).

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,547) is respectfully traversed.

Parent is described above, and is deficient in describing certain aspects of the present invention. Defibaugh et al. is respectfully submitted to add nothing to the teaching of Parent with respect to the instant invention, and Defibaugh et al. does not cure the deficiencies of the Parent reference with respect to the claims at issue.

Defibaugh et al. discloses strain relief features for a connector, and notably does not disclose latching features to securely engage the connector with a mating connector. Specifically, Defibaugh et al., like Parent, do not describe or suggest a cable connector assembly having a base having a pivotally mounted bail latch, and a cable connector having a bail latch retainer thereon configured to receive the pivotally mounted bail latch, in combination with a

jack screw. Thus, as neither of the cited references discloses or suggests such features, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

The recitations of claims 3, 6, and 7, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, are likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

Defibaugh et al., like Parent, do not describe or suggest a cable connector assembly including a connector having a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch and a cable connector having a bail latch retainer extending substantially perpendicular to said first side and defining a slot extending substantially parallel to said mating connector face, said slot configured to receive the bail latch as recited in claim 8. Thus, as neither of the cited references discloses or suggests such a feature, Claim 8 is submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

The recitations of claims 10, 12, and 13 when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 8, are likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

Claim 14 recites a low profile cable connector assembly comprising “a first connector comprising a base and a pivotally mounted bail latch” and “a cable connector comprising a housing defining a mating connector face extending opposite a top surface which is sloped relative to said mating connector face, first and second lateral sides extending from said mating connector face, and a cable exit extending from one of said first and second sides in a direction parallel to said top surface; wherein said first side of said cable connector comprises a bail latch retainer thereon, said bail latch retainer comprising a hook which receives said pivotally mounted bail latch as said bail latch is moved relative to said base and moved relative to said housing when said first connector and said cable connector are mated; and wherein a jack screw latch is located adjacent said second side of said cable connector, said jack screw extending above said sloped surface of said housing.”

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Defibaugh et al., like Parent, do not describe or suggest a cable connector having a bail latch retainer thereon, said bail latch retainer comprising a hook configured to retain a pivotally mounted bail latch as said bail latch is moved relative to said base and moved relative to said housing when said first connector and said cable connector are mated as recited in claim 14. Thus, as neither of the cited references discloses or suggests such a feature, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

The recitations of claims 15-19, when considered in combination with the recitations of claim 14, are likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent in view of Defibaugh et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 14-19 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Parent is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 depends from claim 14, which for the reasons set forth above is submitted to be patentable over Parent. When the recitations of claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 14, claim 20 is likewise submitted to be patentable over Parent. Applicants accordingly request that the Section 103 rejection of claim 20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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